

College Students Are Flocking To New CIA Job Opportunities

by Allan Rabinowitz

"Unique employment opportunities, international travel, mystery, good pay, many benefits - all yours when working for this well established international corporation."

Sound like a dream job?

It's the CIA's latest recruitment pitch to college seniors and graduate students across the country.

And nearly the only response from students - even on campuses that were hostile during the Vietnam War years - has been to beat down the doors to get in for interviews with recruiters.

According to CIA officials in Washington, D.C. and Boston, student interest in working for the counter-intelligence agency is increasing.

A CIA-sponsored minority hiring conference, held recently in Washington, D.C., drew more than 60 career counselors from 23 U.S. universities. All expenses were paid by the CIA.

Representatives from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, UCLA, University of Wisconsin at Madison, Michigan State University at East Lansing and the University of California at Berkeley all came to talk with the CIA about employment opportunities.

A University of Michigan employment recruiter at the conference said the campus would not recruit for the CIA, but "encouraged the CIA to come back to campus."

Most of the career placement officials said it was their duty to provide all possible employment opportunities for students.

Company Pitch

The CIA's pitch is simple. The agency is playing down its role in political murders, toppled governments, Mafia collaborations and domestic spying. The CIA is being bill-

ed as just another government agency.

Student protests have been scattered and ineffectual.

Demonstrations at Berkeley, UCLA, University of Michigan and Michigan State University have produced no change in campus recruitment policies.

But at the Univ. of California at San Diego, president Davis Saxon was forced to leave the campus by police car after anti-CIA groups stopped him from addressing the academic senate about CIA recruitment.

Shortly after the disturbance, the senate defeated a proposal requiring full disclosure of CIA-university connections, which would have banned CIA campus recruitment and stopped agency research by faculty members.

The CIA, in advertisements, makes special pitch for Ph. D. candidates doing research. The agency offers one of the few opportunities for employment in research, said Robert Ginn, associate director of career placement at Harvard, with the opportunity to publish "substantive scholarly research" throughout the intellectual and intelligence community.

Publicity Helps

Ginn speculated that recent publicity on the CIA's activities actually helped recruitment activities because "it makes the kids think about the agency."

Whatever illegal and corrupt CIA actions may be disclosed, there are practical considerations - jobs and research money - that now hold a high priority for graduating university students.

"Why should they protest?" asked Angus Thurner, assistant to the director of the CIA. "Jobs are very scarce these days."

The CIA internship program for foreign studies has received more than 1,000 inquiries for 50 openings. Internship program participants, about half of whom become fulltime CIA employees, come from a wide range of colleges, including Harvard, Yale and the Univ. of Chicago. They receive monthly salaries of between \$800 and \$1,000.

Students accepted into the program come from a wide range of disciplines and usually at the top of their classes, with masters degrees or higher.

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